

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 04646 312236Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01
DOE-15 SOE-02 NRC-05 ACDA-12 SAS-02 /101 W
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R 312029Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO AMEMBASSY SUVA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6158
SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 04646

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD AND ICA ADVISER

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, OCLR, FJ
SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO FIJI

REF: (A) STATE 215865 (NOTAL); (B) SUVA 1501 (NOTAL);
(C) SUVA 1471 (NOTAL); (D) WELLINGTON 04416

1. AS BACKGROUND FOR YOUR DISCUSSIONS PER REF A WITH
KOTOBALAVU AND OTHERS, YOU MAY FIND USEFUL THE FOLLOWING
QUOTATIONS EXTRACTED FROM A NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATE OF JUNE 25, 1976.

2. THE SPEAKER IS PRIME MINISTER MULDOON --
"THE FINAL QUOTATION I WANT TO USE IS FROM THE
COMMUNIQUE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM OF 9 MARCH 1976:

- 'THE MEMBERS OF THE FORUM, THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
OF THE FREE, INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC,
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AGREED THAT, IN CARRYING FORWARD THEIR CONSULTATIONS
UNDER THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS ON 11 DECEMBER 1975 ENDORSING THE
IDEA OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC,
THEIR OBJECTIVES WOULD BE TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF GENERAL
DISARMAMENT AND (TO SEEK) THE CESSATION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. IN TAKING SUCH

ACTION THEY WOULD RESPECT THE PRINCIPLE OF THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION OF THE HIGH SEAS. THEY AGREED THAT IN DEVELOPING THE CONCEPT EMBODIED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ALONG THESE LINES THERE WOULD BE NO INCOMPATIBILITY WITH EXISTING SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.'

"THAT STATEMENT WAS NOT MADE UNDER PRESSURE FROM AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND. IT WAS VOLUNTEERED IN A PAPER PRESENTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI, RATU SIR KAMISESE MARA, WHO, WHEN ASKED STRAIGHT OUT AFTER THE FORUM IF HE WOULD PERMIT A NUCLEAR-POWERED VESSEL TO VISIT FIJI, SAID YES."

3. THE FORMAL EFFECT OF THE 1976 FORUM COMMUNIQUE WAS TO FURTHER DEFINE IN TWO RESPECTS (HIGH SEAS AND ANZUS) THE 1975 FORUM COMMUNIQUE. THAT COMMUNIQUE HAD EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE REGION FREE FROM THE RISK OF NUCLEAR CONTAMINATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN A NUCLEAR CONFLICT AND HAD COMMENDED THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING THOSE AIMS. THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THE 1976 FORMULATION, AS VOLUNTEERED BY RATU MARA, WAS TO FREE THE FORUM STATES FROM ANY SUGGESTION THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EARLIER CONSENSUS TO EXCLUDE AMERICAN NPW'S FROM THEIR PORTS. RATU MARA MADE HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE SITUATION CLEAR IN THE STATEMENT QUOTED ABOVE AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF NEW
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ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA LIKewise INTERPRETED THE 1976 FORUM COMMUNIQUE AS PERMITTING THEM FULL FREEDOM TO DECIDE TO PERMIT U.S. NPW VISITS.
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